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# The VEGETABLE SITUATION

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April 1959

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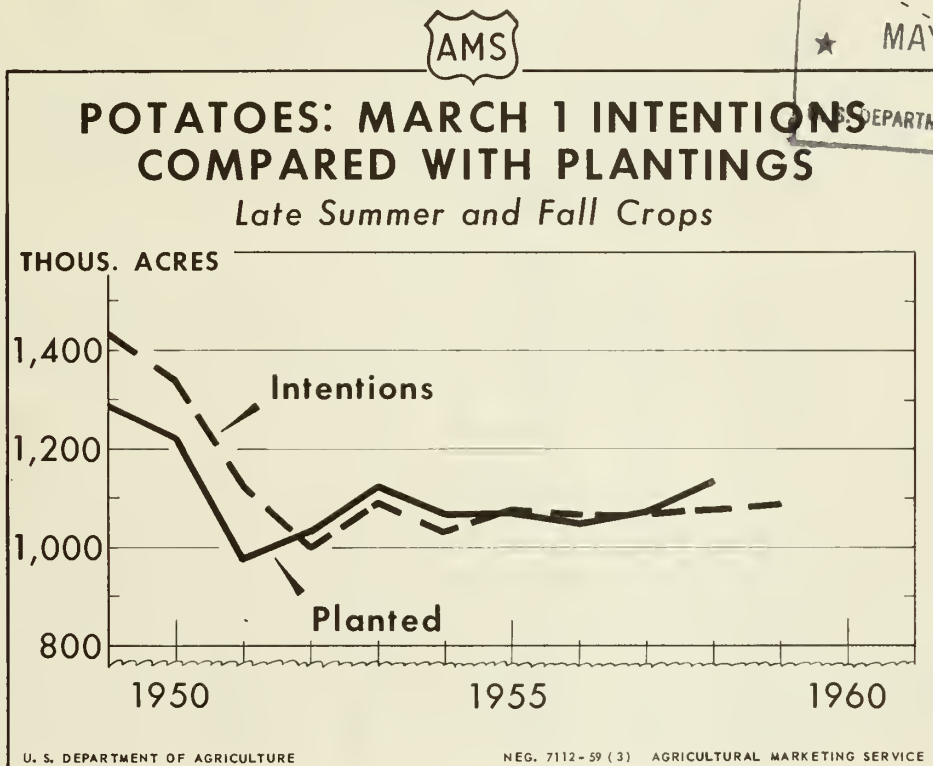
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In this issue:  
United States-Canadian Fruit and  
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Seasonal Variation in Supply of  
Fresh Vegetables and Potatoes

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★ MAY 7 - 1959 ★

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



During 1949-51 potato growers in the late summer and fall States planted materially less acreage than March intentions reports indicated. These were years when potato acreage was still declining from the wartime peak. Since 1951 plantings have generally been close to intentions, but in 1958 were 5 percent larger.

Growers in these States reported-

ly plan to plant 4 percent less acreage this year than last. The intended acreage likely would result in another season of burdensome supplies and low prices. To avoid this probability, the Department recommends that growers cut acreage 11 percent from last year, and 7 percent below March intentions.

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AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Table 1.--Vegetables and melons for fresh market: Reported commercial acreage and production of principal crops, selected seasons, average 1949-57, 1958 and indicated 1959

Seasonal group and crop	Acreage					Production				
	Average 1949-57	1958	1959			Average 1949-57	1958	1959		
			Indi-cated	Percent-age of average	Percent-age of 1958			Indi-cated	Percent-age of average	Percent-age of 1958
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Pct.	Pct.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	Pct.	Pct.
Winter 1/	263,990	211,100	234,210	89	111	31,074	27,998	28,921	93	103
Spring:										
Asparagus										
early and mid 1/	84,210	92,700	94,800	113	102	2,054	2,239	2,214	108	99
late 1/	55,870	65,210	64,500	115	99	---	---	---	---	---
Beans, lima	5,100	3,400	2,900	57	85	---	---	---	---	---
Beans, snap,										
early and mid 3/	37,340	34,850	27,550	74	79	569	685	421	74	61
Beets	990	650	550	56	85	102	56	49	48	88
Broccoli 1/ 2/	10,710	12,000	12,800	120	107	645	780	832	129	107
Cabbage										
early 1/	19,730	17,000	16,100	82	95	2,451	2,074	2,224	91	107
late 1/	9,890	8,650	8,250	83	95	---	---	---	---	---
Cantaloups	39,820	35,000	33,300	84	95	---	---	---	---	---
Carrots	2,680	1,300	1,400	52	108	563	306	329	58	108
Cauliflower 2/	7,100	6,900	7,700	108	112	1,137	1,070	1,155	102	108
Celery	6,610	7,200	8,000	121	111	3,560	2,970	4,200	118	141
Corn, sweet 2/	32,640	37,300	37,000	113	99	2,124	2,635	2,440	115	93
Cucumbers 2/	10,940	14,200	10,200	93	72	844	1,074	731	87	68
Eggplant	1,200	1,400	1,100	92	79	137	126	121	83	96
Lettuce 2/	47,160	47,600	51,780	110	109	5,818	7,018	7,337	126	105
Onions										
early	36,760	27,000	32,500	88	120	2,267	2,565	1,950	86	76
late	14,710	15,200	12,400	84	82	---	---	---	---	---
Peas, green 2/	6,830	4,000	3,900	57	98	227	104	136	60	131
Peppers, green	7,920	7,000	7,600	96	109	495	420	380	77	90
Shallots	2,310	2,000	1,800	78	90	62	40	45	73	112
Spinach	10,470	7,220	7,570	72	105	657	413	450	68	109
Tomatoes 2/	54,420	54,200	46,100	85	85	3,759	3,808	2,990	80	79
Watermelons										
late	88,230	102,700	83,700	95	81	---	---	---	---	---
Summer:										
Cabbage										
early 1/	8,920	8,200	8,000	90	98	---	---	---	---	---
late 1/	22,390	19,700	18,400	82	93	---	---	---	---	---
Garlic	2,060	2,900	3,200	155	110	---	---	---	---	---
Onions										
early	7,380	11,410	11,170	151	98	---	---	---	---	---
late	60,430	53,050	59,300	98	112	---	---	---	---	---
Watermelons										
early	289,690	323,600	285,200	98	88	---	---	---	---	---
late	23,780	30,550	27,200	114	89	---	---	---	---	---

1/ Includes processing.

2/ Acreage and production for early spring only.

3/ Production for early spring only.

Vegetables--Fresh Market Report, USDA, AMS, issued monthly.

THE VEGETABLE SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 24, 1959

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SUMMARY

Early production estimates point to about the same total volume of vegetables for fresh market sale this spring as last. Materially smaller production than a year earlier is in prospect for early spring snap beans, cucumbers, onions, tomatoes, and spring peppers, and moderate reductions for early spring sweet corn and spring eggplant. These decreases are about offset by substantially larger production estimates for spring celery and spinach, and for early spring broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower, and a moderate increase for early spring lettuce.

Below normal temperature and heavy rains in the Southeast this year as in 1958 delayed planting and retarded crop development. But in the West warm weather advanced harvest schedules one to three weeks ahead of 1958. As a result of these developments, marketings into late spring are expected to be somewhat larger than a year ago, with less bunching of supplies toward the end of the spring season.

Indications point to consumer incomes continuing at record levels during the next few months, sustaining a strong demand for food. However, if current production prospects materialize for spring vegetables and pattern of harvest is more normal than the delayed harvest of 1958, both farm and retail prices of most vegetables probably will average somewhat lower during the next 4 to 6 weeks than a year earlier.



Remaining supplies of canned vegetables are moderately larger than a year ago, and much above the 1949-57 average. Stocks of frozen vegetables, excluding potatoes, on April 1 were slightly smaller than a year earlier, but materially above average. Relatively low prices for some items and the prospect of a large carryover, particularly of tomatoes, most tomato products, and canned peas, have caused canners to aim for a smaller pack in 1959. Plantings close to intentions, with yields near the average of recent years, would result in at least moderately less tonnage for canning than last year. While freezers this year will put up less quantities of some items than they did last year, the total frozen pack probably will be above 1958.

During the remainder of the current season most processed items are expected to continue to move at slightly higher prices than last year. But f.o.b. prices to packers for tomatoes, most tomato products, and canned peas are likely to remain lower.

Production of potatoes for spring harvest promises to be somewhat smaller than the above average crop of 1958. But because of remaining stocks of fall crop potatoes and earlier movement of new crop supplies, the market remains under considerable pressure. Prices of fall potatoes are likely to improve somewhat from the low levels of mid-April, but during the next 4 weeks or so overall prices to growers are expected to continue at relatively low levels.

Indications are that growers in the late summer and fall States will again plant more potatoes than needed to meet anticipated demand. Intended acreage in early March was down only 4 percent from 1958. Even if yields should be a little lower than last year, potatoes would again be in surplus supply, and prices relatively low.

Intentions reports indicate that farmers plan to plant about 1 percent more acreage to sweetpotatoes than last year. However, recent average yields by States on the intended acreage would result in production slightly to moderately smaller than in 1958 and substantially below the 1949-57 average. Prices to growers probably would average at least moderately above those of the current season.

Farmers in early March reported intentions to plant a fractionally larger acreage of dry edible beans than last year. Intended plantings of dry peas were up 37 percent from the small 1958 acreage. Such acreages, with recent average yields by States, probably would result in a moderate surplus of dry beans. Supplies of dry peas also would be moderately above domestic and usual export needs. Under these conditions and with lower support rates, prices to growers for dry beans next season probably would average materially below those of the current season. Also, prices for 1959 crop dry peas probably would average much lower than the high levels received for the 1958 crop.

## COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

Overall Prospects

Fresh Market: During the next 4 to 6 weeks, supplies of vegetables for fresh market probably will be about the same as a year earlier. Tonnage of 7 spring vegetables plus 11 early and mid-spring crops, on which production estimates were available in early April, is expected to be close to that of both last spring and the 1949-57 average. Warm weather in the West favored earlier maturity of most spring crops in that part of the country. But below normal temperature and heavy rains in the Southeast delayed planting and retarded crop development in that area. The 18 crops for which estimates are currently available typically make up about three-fourths of spring tonnage, excluding melons.

Much smaller production than last spring is in prospect for early spring snap beans, cucumbers, onions and tomatoes. More moderate reductions are expected for early spring sweet corn, and for spring eggplant and green peppers. These decreases are about offset by moderately to substantially larger production estimates for spring celery and spinach, and for early spring broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce.

Although production estimates are not yet available, acreages of late spring onions and watermelons are down substantially from last year, and cabbage acreage down moderately. Acreages of spring lima beans and cantaloups are also down.

Early reports indicate substantially smaller acreages of watermelons for both early and late summer harvest. Prospective acreage of early summer cabbage is slightly smaller than last year, and acreage for late summer harvest 7 per cent smaller. Indicated acreage of onions for early summer harvest is slightly smaller than a year ago, but intended acreage for late summer harvest is materially larger.

Overall economic activity is at a high level and some further improvement is likely during the next few months. Some further reduction in unemployment is expected. With consumer incomes expected to remain at record levels during the next few months, demand for food, including vegetables, is likely to continue strong. Prices received by growers for fresh market vegetables, compared with a year earlier, will depend largely on the volume produced, the seasonal pattern of harvest, and for some items competition with processed products. However, if present production and harvest prospects materialize, during the next 4 to 6 weeks both farm and retail prices of most vegetables probably will average somewhat lower than a year earlier. Last year, planting and maturity of a number of crops were seriously delayed because of adverse weather, resulting in light marketings during early spring. Prices in late spring - early summer are likely to average near those of a year earlier.



Processed: The total supply of processed vegetables available in the current marketing season was moderately above the large supplies of a year earlier, and about a fifth above the 1949-56 average. Although movement in the first half of the current season was slightly larger than a year earlier, remaining supplies on January 1 were the largest of record. There are indications that consumption of canned vegetables in January-March this year was a little smaller than a year earlier, when a severe shortage of tender fresh vegetables stimulated use of processed items. Recent canners' stocks of asparagus and sweet corn were substantially smaller than a year earlier, and beets moderately smaller. Also, holdings of lima beans, and pumpkin and squash probably are smaller. But incomplete data indicate that these reductions are more than offset by materially larger holdings of carrots, tomatoes, tomato juice and most tomato products, and slightly to moderately larger holdings of snap beans, green peas and sauerkraut. Total stocks of canned vegetables at the end of the current season are expected to be moderately larger than a year earlier, and much above the 1949-57 average.

Outmovement of some frozen items, such as lima beans, snap beans, sweet corn and peas was not as heavy during the winter months of 1959 as in those of 1958, when demand for frozen vegetables was stimulated by a shortage of many fresh items. Stocks of frozen vegetables in commercial cold storage excluding potatoes, on April 1 amounted to 542 million pounds, slightly less than on April 1, 1958. Stocks of frozen french fried potatoes at 98 million pounds were about 29 million pounds larger than a year earlier. Holdings of snap beans, broccoli, spinach, and mixed peas and carrots also were materially larger than a year ago. Stocks of most other vegetables were down. Holdings of asparagus, sweet corn, green peas, and "other vegetables" were substantially smaller than last year, and lima beans, Brussels sprouts and mixed vegetables moderately smaller. Aggregate carryover stocks of frozen items, excluding potatoes, at the end of the current season may be a little below those of 1958.

During the remainder of the current season, consumer demand for processed vegetables is expected to be at least as strong as a year earlier. Most items are expected to continue to move at slightly higher prices than last year, but prices to packers for tomatoes, most tomato products and canned peas probably will remain lower.

With the prospect of relatively heavy carryover stocks at the end of the year, processors are aiming for a smaller total pack in 1959. Prospective acreage of 9 vegetables for commercial processing--green lima beans, snap beans, beets, cabbage for kraut (contract acreage only), sweet corn, cucumbers for pickles, green peas, winter and early spring spinach, and tomatoes--is down 3 percent from last year. Aggregate production is expected to be down at least moderately because of some expected cutback in tomato acreage, a crop with relatively high yields per acre. Acreage data currently available do not include asparagus for processing, open market purchases of cabbage for kraut, or late spring and fall spinach production. Crops included in the intentions reports, however, typically make up about 95 percent of the tonnage of the 10 processing crops regularly reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Should the intended acreage be planted, normal abandonment and yields near the



average of recent years would result in a production at least moderately below that of last year, but moderately above the 1949-57 average. The overall cut from 1958 is expected to occur in the canned pack. While freezers will put up less of some items, the total frozen pack in 1959 is likely to be moderately above last year.

Canada Alters Tariff On A Number of Vegetables: The Canadian Government, after extended hearings and negotiations with this country has altered considerably Canada's tariff structure on fruit and vegetable imports. For a discussion of the negotiations and resulting changes see pages 22 thru 24. Since Canada is the principal market for our fresh vegetable exports the above changes, which became effective April 11, 1959, will tend to restrict somewhat U.S. exports to Canada during her producing season, but will encourage exports during the off-season in Canada.

Prospects for  
Major Items

Celery: Supplies of celery moving to market in January and February 1959 were near those of a year earlier, but in March were moderately larger. Throughout the winter, prices to growers averaged substantially below those of a year earlier. Indications are that supplies during the next 4 to 6 weeks will be materially larger than the light marketings in comparable weeks of 1958, and prices much lower. Production for spring harvest is estimated at 4.2 million hundredweight, compared with 3.0 million last spring and the 1949-57 average of 3.6 million. About a tenth more acreage in both Florida and California and expectation of much higher yields in both States this year account for the prospective increase from last year.

Lettuce: Marketing of lettuce was a little smaller this winter than last. Marketings in January were close to those of a year ago. But in February marketings were substantially lighter than a year earlier, owing to reduced volume from California because of a State marketing order program, and prices to growers averaged much higher. Movement picked up considerably in early March, due largely to increased shipments from Arizona, and prices declined from the February level. Unloads in 39 cities in March-early April were moderately to materially above those of a year earlier and prices substantially lower.

Indications are that supplies of lettuce during the next 4 to 6 weeks will be moderately larger than those of a year earlier, and prices somewhat lower. Early spring production, which typically makes up more than three-fourths of total spring output, is estimated at 7.3 million hundredweight. This is 5 percent above last year and a fourth above the 1949-57 average. Substantially larger acreage and production in California account for the increase over 1958. There was also a moderate increase in acreage in the Salt River Valley of Arizona, but prospective yields there are moderately lower than last year. Acreage is also up in the Aguila-Salome area, but is down sharply in the Wilcox-Bowie area.

Complete data are not available on probable acreage of lettuce for late spring and summer harvest. But reports on acreage planted for June harvest

in the Salinas Watsonville district of California indicate that June supplies from that area are likely to be much larger than the relatively small supplies of a year earlier. The acreage-marketing guide recommends for summer harvest 5 percent less acreage than in 1958 with a production goal about in line with 1958.

Onions: Acreage of early spring onions in Texas was a fifth larger than last year, with substantial increases in Raymondville and Lower Valley, Coastal Bend and Laredo areas. Biggest increase was in the dry land Coastal Bend area, which has much lower yields than most other areas. Because of adverse weather at planting time, acreage was down in the Winter Garden and Eagle Pass areas. In all areas the crop was hit repeatedly by cold, wet weather and blight and weeds became serious problems, reducing yield prospects sharply. Despite the larger acreage, indicated production at 2.0 million hundredweight is a fourth less than last year and 14 percent below the 1949-57 average.

Owing to smaller crops and seriously delayed maturity, marketing of new onions through mid-April was very light, and prices much above those of a year earlier. Through April 18, unloads of onions from the Texas crop amounted to less than 300 carlot equivalents, compared with over 1,200 carlots in 1958. In the week ending April 17, movement picked up materially but was still far below that of a year earlier. Marketings in late spring are likely to be larger than average, and may exceed those of a year earlier. Total acreage for late spring harvest is materially smaller than last year. But indicated acreage in California, which has relatively high yields per acre, is up about a tenth. Also, per acre yields in California and Arizona may be higher than the below average yields of 1958.

Intentions reports indicate that growers plan to plant 12 percent more acreage to onions for late summer harvest this year than last. Among principal producing States substantial increases are indicated in New York, Michigan, Idaho, Colorado and California; a moderate increase is indicated in Oregon.

The intended acreage with 1956-58 average yields, by States, would result in more than 18 million hundredweight of onions. This is about a tenth above the 1949-57 average and more than a tenth above last year. Since consumers like about the same quantity of onions year after year, even a moderate over-supply results in serious marketing difficulties. Production at the indicated level is substantially above that recommended in the Department's acreage-marketing guide. If producers are to avoid the risk of overproduction and low prices they should plant about a seventh less acreage than indicated in March 1 intentions reports.

### Cantaloups

Acreage of cantaloups for spring harvest is down 5 percent from last year, and a sixth smaller than the 1949-57 average. Acreage is up substantially from 1958 in Arizona and Florida. But acreage in California is down moderately, and that in Texas down drastically--to 4,500 acres compared with 8,000 last year. Growth in Florida was retarded. Some fields have been replanted, and production prospects are only fair. Crops in all areas of Texas are late. Plantings



in many areas were delayed, and plant growth was retarded by cool, wet weather. The Arizona crop is in generally good condition.

Acreage and current condition of the crop indicate total spring production close to that of last year, but substantially below the 1949-57 average. If spring production is about in line with present prospects, prices to growers probably will average near those of a year earlier. However, market conditions for the spring crop will be affected to some extent by the size of the early summer crop. The early summer acreage in Arizona was reestablished in 1958 on new lands. Harvestings in Arizona jumped from 1,500 acres in 1957 to 10,500 acres in 1958. First estimates of 1959 early summer acreage will be available on May 11.

### Watermelons

Last year growers produced a surplus of watermelons, and there was more than the usual overlap of spring and summer production. Prices to growers were seriously depressed throughout the marketing season. Early reports indicate that producers plan a smaller crop this year. Acreage of late spring melons is down almost a fifth, with a sharp cut in Florida more than offsetting a material increase in California. The yield in Florida probably will be at least moderately below the record level of a year earlier. The crop in south Florida developed under generally satisfactory weather conditions. But on the east coast, and in central and northern producing areas, crops suffered heavy weather damage. Considerable replanting was necessary in north Florida, and the crop in this area will be later than usual.

Growers on March 1 reported intentions to plant about 285,000 acres to the important early summer crop. This is 12 percent less than last year. Decreases were reported in all States except California, which reported a slight increase. Normal abandonment and 1954-58 average yields, on the indicated acreage, would result in production about a sixth smaller than in 1958, and about in line with the 1949-57 average.

Growers plan to plant 27,200 acres of watermelons for late summer harvest, 11 percent less than last year. Near average yields and abandonment on this acreage would result in production materially smaller than either last year or the 1949-57 average.

Should present production prospects materialize, supplies of watermelons throughout the season would be substantially smaller than a year earlier. Such supplies probably could be marketed without serious difficulty at prices to growers materially above the low levels of 1958.

### Cabbage

Fresh: During the winter, weekly marketings of cabbage were generally smaller than a year earlier. But there were not as many items in acute shortage as in the winter of 1958, and the price of cabbage along with that of most other vegetables averaged substantially lower this winter than last.



During the remainder of the spring season slightly more cabbage may be available than a year earlier. Prospective production of early spring cabbage, which typically makes up about two-thirds of total spring tonnage, is up about 7 percent from a year ago, largely as a result of larger acreages in California and Louisiana and higher prospective yields in South Carolina. Acreage of the late spring crop is down 6 percent from 1958.

Prospective acreage of cabbage for early summer harvest is slightly smaller than last year, and acreage for late summer harvest moderately smaller. Also, yields per acre may be moderately below the high levels of 1958. Yields and abandonment near the average of recent years on the prospective acreages would result in moderately less cabbage for early summer harvest, and substantially less for late summer.

Processed: A little more than 11 million cases of sauerkraut, 24/2 equivalents, were packed in 1958, a fifth more than a year earlier. All important producing States reported substantial increases. Despite smaller beginning stocks, supplies for the 1958-59 season were about a tenth above those of the previous season. Demand for sauerkraut has been active all season.

Movement into consumption during August-December was about a fifth heavier than a year earlier, at only slightly lower prices. This cut into the increased supplies and reduced January 1 stocks to near year-earlier levels. Cannery prices in January-February were firm to slightly higher than in the early part of the season. Movement continued active but moderately lighter than a year earlier. Cannery stocks on April 1 were 4.6 million cases, 24/2 equivalents, moderately more than a year earlier and materially above the 1952-57 average.

Intentions reports indicate that processors this year plan to plant or contract 4 percent less acreage of cabbage for kraut than last year. Yields near the 1956-58 average on indicated acreage would result in about an eighth less tonnage than in 1958, but materially more than average. In addition to contract tonnage, packers typically purchase large quantities of cabbage from open market supplies. These purchases which supplement contract production, usually amount to 40 to 50 percent of the total tonnage used for kraut. They vary considerably, depending on the prospective supply and demand situation for kraut, and the supply and price of open market cabbage. Information on probable open market purchases in 1959 is not available.

### Snap Beans

Fresh: Winter production and movement of snap beans were much larger than the light supplies in the winter of 1958, and prices averaged much lower. But during the next few weeks supplies are likely to be much smaller than those of a year earlier. Production for early spring harvest, mostly in Florida, is estimated at 421,000 hundredweight, down almost 40 percent from 1958 and a fourth below the 1949-57 average. Acreage in Florida was down a third from last year, and rains caused considerable damage in most sections of the State. Mid-spring acreage is 6 percent smaller than last year. Although

large supplies of canned and frozen beans are available, during the next 4 to 6 weeks prices to growers for limited fresh market supplies are expected to be substantially above last year and most other recent years.

Acreage and production estimates are not yet available for the late spring crop. However, barring serious overlap of harvests such as occurred in 1958, producers probably could market without serious difficulty a production about in line with that of last year. The Department acreage-marketing guide suggests a planted acreage equal to 1958.

Processed: Despite a good rate of movement during the current season, supplies of processed beans appear to be at record high levels. Cannery stocks on March 1 amounted to 11.8 million cases, 24/2 equivalents, about 5 percent more than on March 1, 1958, and about 75 percent above the 1949-57 average. Stocks of frozen beans on April 1 were 57 million pounds, about a fourth more than a year earlier.

Disappearance of snap beans from July through December 1958 was moderately larger than a year earlier. Movement in January-February 1959 appeared to be off from a year earlier, but still the second highest of record. Canned stocks at the end of the current season probably will be moderately larger than a year earlier and frozen stocks materially larger. With the exception of waxed beans and New York fancy, canned green beans, prices to both canners and freezers have averaged a little lower this season than last. Retail prices have averaged about the same as a year ago.

Early April intentions reports indicate that packers plan to plant on contract 5 percent more acreage of snap beans for processing this year than last. Acreage in the eastern and central States combined is up almost 7 percent. Among the more important producing States of the area, prospective acreage is up substantially in New York, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Tennessee, and up moderately in Wisconsin and Michigan. Intended acreage is down 7 percent in Maryland. Acreage in the West is up 3 percent, with a moderate increase in Oregon and a slight increase in California and Texas. Growers in Colorado and Washington plan the same acreage as in 1958. Prospective acreages for both canning and freezing are up 5 percent. Yields near the average of recent years on the indicated acreage would result in a moderately larger production for canning than last year, but probably a little less tonnage for freezing. Such production together with expected carryover would mean another season of record or near record supplies of both canned and frozen beans.

### Sweet Corn

Fresh: Production of sweet corn for early spring harvest, which typically makes up almost three-fourths of total spring tonnage, is estimated at 2.4 million hundredweight. This is 7 percent below last year, but 15 percent above the 1949-57 average. Development of the crop is about on schedule, with marketings to date substantially ahead of a year ago. Last year the important Florida crop, and the Texas crop, was delayed by adverse weather. The result was very light movement and high prices for sweet corn in early spring, and



relatively heavy movement and much lower prices in late spring. Indications are that marketings in May and June are likely to be lighter than a year earlier, and prices somewhat higher.

Processed: Supply of canned corn available in the current season was down about 12 percent from the previous season. Supply of frozen corn was down moderately. Despite the smaller supplies, movement of corn into consumption so far this season has been about the same as a year earlier. Consequently, remaining supplies are sharply lower than the heavy stocks of a year earlier. Canner holdings on April 1 amounted to 9.3 million cases, 24/2 equivalents, compared with 13.6 million cases on April 1, 1958. Cold storage holdings on April 1 were 49 million pounds compared with 56 million pounds last season. Corn is expected to continue to move well during the next few months, though volume probably will be below the same months of 1958. Stocks at the end of the current season will be substantially below those of a year earlier. Both prices to canners and retail prices are expected to continue at least moderately above those of last season.

Intentions reports indicate that processors plan to plant and contract a materially larger acreage of sweet corn for processing than last year. All States for which separate data are available reported increases, except Maine and Indiana which reported the same acreages as last year. Among the more important producing States, acreage is up substantially in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, and up moderately in Maryland and New York. Prospective acreages for both canning and freezing are up 12 percent. Yields and abandonment near the average of recent years, on the indicated acreage, would result in materially more corn than last year for both canning and freezing.

### Tomatoes

Fresh: Supplies of tomatoes for fresh market sale were substantially larger this winter than last. During January and February increased movement from the Florida crop more than offset smaller imports from Mexico and Cuba. In March both domestic supplies and imports were larger than a year earlier. Throughout the winter, prices received by growers were much lower than the extremely high levels of last winter, but were near the 1951-55 average. During the first half of April marketings have continued larger than those of a year earlier, and prices much lower.



Indications are that marketings will soon drop below those of a year earlier. Production from the early spring crop is expected to be about a fifth smaller than that of 1958, largely because of sharp acreage reductions in Florida and California. During the next 4 to 6 weeks prices to growers for fresh tomatoes are likely to average above those of a year earlier. No acreage or production estimates are available for the late spring crop, which is typically about a third as large as early spring production.

Processed: Because of a tenth larger acreage and substantially higher yields per acre than a year earlier, the 1958 pack of tomatoes and tomato products was a fourth larger than the previous season. Although beginning stocks were smaller than a year earlier, supplies available in the 1958-59 season were about 12 percent larger than last season, and a fifth above the 1949-56 average. Movement during July-December 1958 was a little above the heavy movement of a year earlier. Although complete figures are not available for the first few months of 1959, most items appear to be moving well. Yet movement has not kept pace with the larger beginning supplies, so that remaining supplies are still heavy, probably a sixth above those of a year earlier. Prices for canned tomatoes have averaged materially below those of a year earlier, and tomato juice and most tomato products moderately lower. Although a good rate of movement is expected to continue, stocks at the end of the current season are likely to be substantially larger than both those of a year earlier and the 1949-56 average.

Tomato processors are aiming for a smaller pack this year than in 1958. Intentions reports in early March indicated that packers planned to plant or contract substantially less acreage than last year. Prospective acreage is smaller than a year earlier in all parts of the country. Yields by States close to the 1954-58 average, would result in materially less production than last year, but moderately more than recommended in the acreage-marketing guide.

#### Green Peas

Processed: Acreage of green peas harvested for processing in 1958 was 17 percent smaller than the previous season, with substantial declines both for freezing and canning. The 1958 canned pack, at 29.5 million cases 24/2 equivalents, was 4.3 million cases less than a year earlier. But this reduction was more than offset by a 4.9 million case larger carryover. Further,

movement of canned green peas during the period June-December was about 5 percent lighter than in the previous season. Movement in January-March appears to have been a little larger than a year ago. Nevertheless, remaining supplies and expected carryover are moderately to substantially larger than the heavy stocks of a year ago, and about 50 percent above the 1949-57 average. Heavy supplies have weighed on the market, and prices to canners for most types have averaged slightly lower than last season. Although movement of frozen peas has been somewhat lighter than a year earlier, remaining supplies are materially smaller, and f.o.b. prices substantially higher than the low levels of a year ago. Retail prices are slightly higher.

Processors cut acreage of green peas in the last two seasons. Indications are that acreage will again be reduced in an attempt to bring canned supplies into closer balance with demand. Intentions reports as of March 1 indicate that processors plan to plant and contract 9 percent less acreage than last year. Reports indicate a slightly larger acreage than in 1958 in the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia area, and little change in the Northeast and the West. But packers in the important North Central area plan a cutback of 17 percent. All States in the area plan a substantial reduction. Wisconsin, which produces more than a fourth of the total U. S. tonnage, reports intentions to cut acreage 19 percent. Also, cold rainy weather seriously delayed planting in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Actually, all of the prospective reduction for the country as a whole is in acreage for canning, and this is down 17 percent. Prospective acreage for freezing is up 13 percent. Normal abandonment and yields near the average of recent years on the indicated acreage would result in about a sixth less peas for canning than last year, about a tenth more for freezing.

### Spinach

Processed: Because of adverse weather the 1958 Florida winter crop and the important California early spring crop of spinach for processing were down sharply. Despite a moderate increase in late spring production and a sharp increase in fall output, the canned pack was down almost a fifth from a year earlier. Although data are not available on total frozen output, the spring pack, which typically accounts for about two-thirds of the annual pack, was down substantially.

Despite smaller supplies and generally higher prices, movement of spinach in the period March-December 1958, was slightly above that of a year earlier. With the prospect for much larger winter and early spring crops for processing than last year, prices in January-March eased off to near year-earlier levels. California canner stocks on March 1 amounted to about 356,000

cases, 24/2 equivalents, about a third of those of a year earlier and little more than half of the 1952-57 average. Frozen stocks on March 1 were about 5 million pounds less than in 1958. But because of a larger March pack this year, frozen stocks on April 1 were up 2 million pounds from a year earlier.

Reports in early March indicate a production of approximately 71,000 tons of spinach for processing from the winter crop in Florida and the California early spring crop. This is about 75 percent more than last year and a fourth above the 1949-57 average. Winter and early spring production typically make up 40 to 50 percent of the annual total.

#### Cucumbers For Pickles

Prospective planted acreage of cucumbers for pickles is 10 percent smaller than 1958. Among the more important producing States, growers in California plan a 7 percent larger acreage than last year. But growers in Washington State, Michigan and North Carolina plan substantial cuts in acreage, and those in Wisconsin plan a slight cut. Should indicated acreages be planted, normal abandonment and 1956-58 average yields by States would result in production 10 to 15 percent less than last year but a little above the 1949-57 average.

#### Beets For Canning

April 15 intentions reports indicate a tenth less acreage of beets for canning this year than last. Prospective acreage in New York State is down only slightly from 1958, but growers in Wisconsin plan a 20 percent cut. These two States typically produce about two-thirds of the total tonnage for processing. Should the indicated acreage materialize, 1956-58 average yields by States would result in a total production materially below both last year and the 1949-57 average.

### POTATOES

#### Spring Prospects

Production of potatoes for spring harvest promises to be somewhat smaller than the above-average crop of 1958. Acreage for early spring harvest is down 17 percent from a year ago, and yields are expected to be moderately lower. Prospective production at 3.6 million hundredweight is down almost a fourth from last year, but 9 percent above the 1949-57 average. Acreage of the important late spring crop, which typically makes up about 85 percent of total spring production, is also down 17 percent from a year earlier. California, which typically produces 60 to 65 percent of the late spring tonnage, reported a



26 percent decline in acreage. Other important producing States also cut acreage--there are substantial reductions in North Carolina, Alabama and Arizona. Only Mississippi reported as large an acreage as last year. The crop in California developed rapidly, and yields are expected to be materially above the low levels of last year. The late spring area set up in 1956 in California has been modified. Acreage in Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Orange Counties is now classified as early summer. The late spring acreage as now classified is in Fresno, Madera, Kings, Kern, Tulare, and San Mateo counties. Harvest began in the earliest fields in Kern County in late March, well ahead of the normal schedule. Crops in Arizona and the Baldwin area of Alabama have also made good progress. But in some areas of Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, planting was delayed or planted fields were damaged by excessive rains. First production estimates, by the Department, for the late spring crop will be available May 11. Because of remaining stocks of fall crop potatoes and earlier movement of new crop supplies than last year, the market remains under considerable pressure. Prices received by growers in mid-March averaged \$1.04 per hundredweight compared with over \$3.00 a year earlier, and a 1949-57 average of about \$2.00. During the next few weeks prices of fall potatoes are expected to improve some from the low levels of mid-April. But with the prospect of fairly heavy supplies, prices during the next 4 weeks are expected to remain at relatively low levels.

#### Prospects After Spring

Smaller Acreage: Intentions reports in February indicate that farmers plan to plant 11 percent less acreage of potatoes for early summer harvest than last year.

Early March intentions reports indicate that potato growers in the late summer and fall States combined plan to plant about 4 percent less acreage this year than last. Intended acreage is down in all sections of the country. Biggest reported cutback in acreage--6 percent--is in the 8 eastern States. Vermont and Massachusetts reported the same acreage as in 1958, but all other eastern States reported decreases. Intended acreage in Maine, the most important producing State in the East, is down 6 percent. Acreage is down 4 percent in Pennsylvania, 11 percent in upstate New York and 7 percent on Long Island.

Prospective acreage in the 5 Atlantic States, producing principally for late summer harvest, is down 2 percent from a year earlier and a fourth below the 1949-57 average. North Carolina reported an 8 percent increase from last year, West Virginia no change, and Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey moderate decreases.

Growers in the 10 central States plan to plant 4 percent less acreage this year than last. Prospective acreage in North Dakota, largest producer in the central States, and in Nebraska is down 7 percent, Michigan 2 percent and Wisconsin 10 percent. Intended acreage in Minnesota is the same as last year.

Prospective acreage in the 10 western States is down 3 percent from 1958, but 17 percent above the 1949-57 average. Growers in Idaho, which has the largest acreage of any State in the country and about half of the acreage in the central States, plan a 2 percent increase in plantings. Among other important States, intended acreage is down 6 percent in Colorado, 10 percent in Washington, 7 percent in Oregon, and 4 percent in California.

Overproduction Likely After Midsummer: The intended acreage for early summer probably would result in substantially less potatoes than a year earlier. Barring heavy early movement from the late summer areas, prices in early summer are likely to average materially above those of a year earlier.

If producers of late summer and fall potatoes plant an acreage about in line with their March 1 intentions, supplies of potatoes after mid-summer are likely to be about a tenth smaller than the burdensome supplies of a year earlier. But the indicated acreage with yields near the average of recent years would result in a production, for late summer and fall harvest combined, at least moderately above both the 1949-57 average and the acreage-marketing guide recommendation. Such excess production would again weigh heavily on markets, and prices received by growers probably would be at relatively low levels. Thus, growers in the late summer and fall States should cut acreage further than intentions indicate if they expect to avoid surplus production and low prices. The acreage-marketing guide recommends a 6 percent cut from last year in acreage for late summer harvest and a 12 percent cut in acreage for fall harvest. Since fall acreage is much the larger, the suggested cut for the two groups combined amounts to 11 percent.

#### Canada Extends Tariff Period

After extended hearings and negotiations on proposed tariff changes recommended by its Tariff Board, the Canadian Government has eliminated the January 1 to June 14 duty-free entry period previously in effect for new potatoes. The 37½ cent per hundredweight import duty previously in effect for old crop potatoes January 1 to June 14, and for all potatoes from June 15 to December 31, has been extended to cover imports of all potatoes throughout the year. Since Canada is the largest foreign customer for U. S. potatoes, the new tariff structure will tend to curtail our exports. The change was effective April 11, 1959.

#### Heavy Diversions of Fall Crop Potatoes

Diversions of 1958 fall crop potatoes to starch and livestock feed, under the Section 32 program, were much heavier than were those of the 1957 crop. Through April 18, total diversions amounted to 22.2 million hundredweight, compared with a total of 12.1 million diverted from the 1957 fall crop. This season diversions to starch have amounted to 9.8 million hundredweight, and diversions to livestock feed 12.4 million hundredweight. This compares with a total of 8.2 million hundredweight diverted to starch from the 1957 fall crop, and 3.9 million hundredweight diverted to livestock feed. Most of the increase in the program this year is accounted for by increased diversions to livestock feed in North Dakota, Washington, Oregon, Minnesota and Colorado. The program this year is scheduled to expire on April 30. The program for the 1957 crop was terminated in mid-March 1958. Moderate supplies and rising prices ended the need for the program last year.



## SWEETPOTATOES

Winter Marketings Larger  
Than Year Earlier, Prices Lower

Unload statistics for the 39 markets indicate that marketings of sweetpotatoes were somewhat larger during the past winter than a year earlier, and prices to growers averaged substantially lower. Mid-month prices to growers in January-March averaged about \$4.20 per hundredweight compared with \$5.40 for the like period of 1958. Markets are likely to show some strength as shipments decline with the cleanup of the 1958 crop, but prices during the remainder of the season are likely to remain below those of a year earlier.

Little Change in  
Acreage Indicated

According to early March intentions reports, growers plan to plant 275,200 acres of sweetpotatoes in 1959, about 1 percent more than in 1958. With few exceptions, intended acreage in the southern States remained the same as last year, or declined. This pattern conforms to the long-time trend in the South. The decline in acreage and production over the years appears to be due mainly to (1) decline in demand, (2) increased industrialization of the South with declining emphasis on production for home use, (3) high labor requirements of the crop, and (4) disease and insect problems.

Prospective acreage in the central Atlantic States is up 6 percent. Maryland growers plan to plant the same acreage as last year, but intended plantings are up 6 percent in New Jersey and 7 percent in Virginia. Acreage promises to be slightly smaller than a year ago in the lower Atlantic States, with declines in North Carolina and Florida. South Carolina and Georgia report intentions to plant the same acreage as last year. Intended acreage in the south central States is fractionally larger than last year. Farmers in Louisiana, which produces about half of the sweetpotatoes grown in the area and about a fourth of the U. S. total, plan a 5 percent increase in acreage. But Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Texas plan reductions. Tennessee and Mississippi report the same acreage as last year. Two north central States--Missouri and Kansas--report intentions to plant the same acreage as in 1958. On the Pacific Coast, California growers plan about a tenth larger acreage.

Production and Price  
Prospects for the 1959-60 Season

If sweetpotato growers plant close to March 1 intentions, normal abandonment and recent average yields by States would result in production slightly to moderately less than in 1958, and substantially below the 1949-57 average. During the postwar years the decline in demand for sweetpotatoes has been accompanied by a sharp drop in production; but a crop about in line with that indicated for this season probably would result in average prices to growers in 1959-60 at least moderately above those of the current season.



## DRY EDIBLE BEANS

No Significant Change  
In Acreage Indicated

Intentions reports as of March 1 indicate that growers plan to plant 1,656,000 acres to dry beans this year compared with 1,644,000 acres in 1958. Prospective acreage in the Northeast is substantially the same as a year earlier. A moderate increase in acreage in Michigan, leading producer of pea beans, offset a substantial decrease in New York, major producer of red kidney beans.

Prospective plantings in the Northwest, leading area in the production of small reds and great northern types, is up 3 percent from last year. No change in acreage is indicated in Nebraska, but prospective acreage is up 3 percent in Idaho and Wyoming, 5 percent in Washington, and 7 percent in Montana. Growers in the Southwest, the principal pinto area, plan to plant almost 6 percent more acreage than in 1958. Colorado, which accounts for about 90 percent of production in this area, reports an increase of 8 percent.

Intended acreage in California is down 6 percent. Indicated acreage of limas is about the same as last year, but acreage of "other beans," principally blackeye, pink and small white, is down 8 percent.

Large Movement of Beans in 1958-59  
Season, Prices Held up Well

Supply of dry edible beans in the 1958-59 season amounted to 19.7 million hundredweight. This was about 15 percent more than the supply in the previous season. However, the domestic market has taken somewhat larger quantities of beans than a year earlier, and exports have been considerably heavier. In addition to strong European demand for U. S. beans, Mexico has taken a large quantity of pintos. Considering the large overall supplies available for the season, prices have held up well. Although moderately to substantially below those of a year earlier, prices this season have averaged significantly above the National support rate of \$6.18 per hundredweight. Prices to growers in mid-March averaged \$6.81 per hundredweight, compared with \$7.69 in mid-March 1958. During the next few months demand for beans, particularly for export, is expected to continue active and prices received by growers are likely to average near current levels.

Substantial quantities of 1958 crop beans, mostly pintos, pea beans, small reds and great northers, were placed under Government loans. Through March 31, a total of 3.5 million bags had been placed under loan and purchase agreement. About half the quantity placed under loan had been paid off. Indications are that with the exception of small red beans deliveries to CCC will be light. In States where loans matured on February 28, only a few thousand hundredweight of beans were delivered to CCC.

Prospects for the  
1959-60 Season

Domestic consumption of dry beans promises to be a little larger in 1958-59 than in the previous season. Exports are expected to be substantially larger. Although carryover stocks at the end of the current season are expected to be considerably larger than a year earlier, they probably will be substantially below those of most other recent years.

If farmers plant about in line with March 1 intentions--up less than 1 percent from 1958--and yields by States are near the 1954-58 average, 1959 production would be moderately less than the 18.9 million hundredweight produced in 1958. Production at this level, together with expected carryover stocks, would result in 1959-60 supplies slightly smaller than those of the current season. Although not so large as in the current season, supplies of pea beans might prove burdensome, unless Europe should again have a poor crop as in 1958. Supplies of pintos and small reds might also be somewhat larger than anticipated domestic and normal export sales.

The Department in early April announced support prices for 11 classes of 1959-crop dry edible beans. The national average support price for the 1959 crop is \$5.35 per hundred pounds, 60 percent of the February 1959 parity price, and 83 cents below the support rate for the 1958 crop. The support price for 1959 crop beans is \$5.68 to \$6.18 for pea and medium white beans, depending on area; great northern \$5.33 to \$5.83; small white and flat small white \$6.06; pink \$5.86; small red \$5.91 to \$6.01; pinto \$4.63 to \$5.23; red kidney \$7.24; large lima \$8.81; and baby lima \$4.21 per 100-pounds. Premiums for U. S. Choice, Hand Picked, and U. S. Extra No. 1 beans will be 10 cents per hundred-weight, except for pea beans on which the premium for Choice Hand Picked will be 25 cents. Discounts for U. S. No. 2 beans will be 25 cents per hundred-weight. So-called equity payments will not be available with the takeover of 1959 beans under price support loans. Equity payments in the past were made when the market price on the day of takeover was above the support price plus charges. Producers can, however, obtain any equity they may have by repaying the loan before maturity, thus regaining full ownership of the beans.

Because of poor crops in Europe, export demand for dry beans during the current season has been strong. This foreign demand has aided greatly in sustaining prices to growers at relatively favorable levels. Should 1959 crops in Europe be near normal, the March 1 intended acreage in this country probably would result in a moderate surplus of beans. Under these conditions and with lower support rates, prices to U. S. growers for 1959 crop beans probably would average substantially below those of the current season. To avoid the probability of overproduction and low prices in the season ahead, farmers should plant moderately less acreage than their indicated intentions.



## DRY FIELD PEAS

Supplies Tight,  
Prices High

Supplies of dry peas at the beginning of the 1958-59 marketing season were about a fifth smaller than at the beginning of the previous season. Both domestic and export demand have been active. The crop in Europe was short, and exports in the September-February period were more than twice as large as a year earlier. Prices received by growers in September-December 1958 averaged about \$5.50 per hundredweight compared with \$3.15 in the previous season. Prices have shown some further advance this winter and in mid-March averaged \$6.22 per hundredweight. Prices to growers are likely to continue at relatively high levels during the remainder of the season.

Big Increase in  
Acreage Planned

Current high prices and the prospect of a light carryover of dry peas at the end of the current season have encouraged farmers to plan a larger acreage this year. March 1 intentions reports indicate that growers plan to plant 311,000 acres to dry peas in 1959. This is 37 percent more than last year, and slightly above the 1949-57 average. Farmers in all producing States except Colorado plan larger acreages than in 1958. Colorado growers plan a 4 percent decrease. In Idaho and Washington acreage increases of 52 and 35 percent are planned. These two States combined produce more than 80 percent of the crop.

First production estimates for dry peas are available in early July. With 1954-58 average yields by States, output on the intended acreage would result in a crop of about 3.4 million hundredweight. This is about a third more production than last year and slightly above the 1949-57 average.

Supplies in Coming Season  
Might be Larger Than Needed

Domestic consumption of dry peas for food in the 1959-60 season is expected to exceed 1 million hundredweight, which is somewhat larger than consumption in the current season. An estimated 1.4 to 1.5 million hundredweight will be used for planting the green crop for fresh market and processing, and as seed for the dry crop. Thus, total domestic use in the season ahead is likely to be 2.5 to 2.6 million hundredweight. Assuming fairly normal production in Europe, exports probably would amount to 0.5 to 0.6 million bags.

Should farmers plant the intended acreage, an average growing season would result in 1959-60 supplies moderately above expected domestic and usual export needs. If these conditions materialize, prices received by growers for the 1959 crop probably would average substantially below those of the current season.



UNITED STATES-CANADIAN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS

In the fall of 1957, after public hearings had been held for the Canadian horticultural industry, their Tariff Board recommended sweeping upward revisions of fruit and vegetable tariffs. The Canadian government accepted most of these recommendations and notified the United States in the Spring of 1958 that these changes were to be made and Canada desired negotiations under the procedures of GATT.

The Committee for Reciprocity Information provided interested parties in the United States, 45 days during the early summer of 1958 to file briefs in connection with the Canadian proposals. CRI also provided that an oral hearing would be held upon request of such interested parties. No requests for a hearing were received. Most of the briefs requested the negotiators to attempt to persuade the Canadians not to take the proposed action. But, if Canada persisted, full compensation was requested under the provisions of GATT.

The U. S. negotiating team proceeded along these lines in its discussions with Canada which took place during the winter of 1958-59. They were successful in obtaining modifications of a few of the proposed increases in duty but the Canadians persisted in the majority of their proposals. The U. S. team then went on to negotiate compensation; not only seeking full compensation, but attempting to gain this compensation, insofar as possible, in the horticultural field.

In this endeavor the team was largely successful. The total trade affected by the Canadian increases is approximately \$15 million, based on average annual trade during the 1955-57 period. Compensation affecting \$14.7 million trade was obtained in the horticultural field, chiefly in the form of lowered duties or free duty in the nonseasonal period (for most commodities this is the period in which the bulk of the U. S. trade with Canada occurs).

In keeping with its instructions, the team then insisted upon additional actions since full compensation had not yet been obtained. In this last phase, reduction in duty was obtained on industrial items covering \$700,000 trade. Thus, the total compensation to the United States covered \$15.4 million while Canada's gain is on \$15 million of trade.

Table 2. Increased Canadian Duty Rates - New Schedule Compared with Schedule in Effect Prior to Canadian Action Effective April 11, 1959

Commodity	:	Old Duty Rate	:	New Duty Rate
Potatoes, new	:	Free Jan. 1 to July 14,	)	
	:	37½ ct./cwt. bal. of year.	)	37½ ct. cwt. all year.
Potatoes, old	:	37½ ct./cwt.	)	

Specific Seasonal Duty Period

Fresh Vegetables 1/	:	Ct. per lb.	No. of weeks	Ct. per lb.	No. of weeks
Asparagus	:	3.5	8	3.5	14
Cabbage	:	.9	26	.9	30
Carrots	:	1.0	26	1.0	40
Cauliflower	:	.75	12	.75	20
Celery	:	1.0	24	2.0	24
Cucumbers	:	2.25	12	2.25	22
Lettuce	:	.85	18	.85	26
Onions	:	1.0	40	1.5	44
Peppers	:	10 pct.	all year	1.0	8
Mushrooms	:	3.5	52	4.5	52
Brussels sprouts	:	10 pct.	all year	3.0	16
Corn-on-cob	:	10 pct.	all year	1.5	8
Parsnips	:	10 pct.	all year	1.5	36
Witloof, endive, eggplant	:	Free	---	10 pct.	all year

When packed in consumer-size packages, an additional 5 percent ad valorem duty will apply during the seasonal period on green beans, beets, Brussel sprouts, carrots, cauliflower, corn-on-cob, lettuce, parsnips and green peas.

Fresh Fruit

Apricots	:	1.0	10	1.5	10
Cherries, sour	:	2.0	7	3.0	10
Peaches	:	1.5	9	1.5	14
Pears	:	1.0	15	1.0	22
Prunes	:	1.0	10	1.5	12
Cranberries	:	1.0	12	2.0	12

Rates Applied All Year

Processed Vegetables 2/	:	Pct. ad valorem	Pct. ad valorem
Asparagus, canned	:	15	22.5
Asparagus, frozen	:	17.5	22.5
Brussels sprouts, frozen	:	17.5	22.5

Processed Fruit	:	Ct. per lb.	Ct. per lb.
Apricots, canned	:	2.0	2.5
Cherries, canned	:	1.0	1.5
Peaches, canned	:	2.0	2.25
Prunes, canned	:	1.0	1.3
Cherries, frozen	:	2.0	3.0
Peaches, frozen	:	2.0	2.5
	:		
	:		
	:		

1/ Fresh vegetables in Canadian Tariff structure provided a specific duty rate in cents per pound for a specified maximum number of weeks, with a blanket 10 percent ad valorem rate applying outside of the seasonal period. Canadian increases are chiefly concerned with this specific rate and period.

2/ There are no seasonal periods on processed fruits and vegetables.

Table 3 . Decreased Canadian Fruit and Vegetable Duty Rates  
Provided to United States in Compensation for  
Actions Outlined in Table 2

Duty free  $\frac{1}{2}$  in nonseasonal period - reduced from 10 percent ad valorem

	<u>Minimum number of weeks applicable</u>
Carrots .....	12
Celery .....	28
Lettuce .....	26
Peppers .....	44
Cantaloups .....	44
Beans, green .....	38

Duty free treatment specified period

	<u>Months applicable</u>
Tomatoes .....	January thru March
Cabbage .....	March thru April
Cauliflower .....	January thru April
Spinach .....	All year
Plums .....	May thru June
Strawberries .....	September thru March
Pears .....	March thru June
Dates, unpitted .....	All year

Duty rate reduced

Apples, reduced from  $\frac{3}{8}$  cent per pound to  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent per pound all year to  
 equate with United States rate.

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$\frac{1}{2}$  Duty free treatment applies during nonseasonal period when specific cents  
 per pound duty is not in effect. Bulk of United States shipments in each  
 commodity falls in this period.



SEASONAL VARIATION IN SUPPLY OF  
FRESH VEGETABLES AND POTATOES

by

Will M. Simmons 1/

Most individual fresh vegetables are available in much larger quantity in some months and seasons of the year than in others. But heavy supplies of some items in a particular season tend to offset light supplies of other items, so that there is less variation in total supplies available in the different seasons than might be generally supposed.

In a study that was the basis for this report we measured the relative availability by unload data in 20 principal markets for the period 1953-57. Seasonal production data for fresh vegetables, which generally move to market soon after harvest, differ somewhat from these unload statistics. Biggest difference is that production data show summer to be significantly more important and spring less important than indicated by unloads statistics. The difference appears to be due in large part to the fact that a considerable quantity of summer vegetables as reported in production data, move to market in late spring. Also, truck unloads data may not be as complete in summer, when considerable local production moves through farmers markets, as it is in other seasons. A part of the difference is due to the impact of imports and exports on market supplies. And for potatoes and sweetpotatoes, unload data do not represent the quantities produced or on hand during a particular period, as these items move out of storage during a large part of the season. Despite some shortcomings, unload data probably give the best measure of market availability.

An examination of the data disclosed little difference between the variation in seasonal availability of vegetables used primarily as raw salads and those used principally for cooking. Supplies of both types were lightest in the winter season and heaviest in spring and summer. Even so, fairly substantial quantities of most items are available during the winter months. For all fresh vegetables, excluding melons, about a fifth of the annual volume moves to market during the winter. This is true whether winter is considered to include the months January-March, or the months December-February (tables 4 and 5).

Most tender vegetables, such as asparagus, green beans, sweet corn, squash, cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes, are in relatively light supply during the winter months. But for most hardy crops--broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, escarole, turnips and rutabagas, spinach and other cooking

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greens--a fourth or more of the annual volume is available in the winter months. Practically all of this winter production is concentrated in warmest areas of four of the southernmost States--Florida, California, Texas and Arizona.

Largest seasonal marketings of fresh vegetables, excluding melons, occur in the spring and summer. On the average each of these account for 26 to 28 percent of the annual total. In terms of pounds, about a fourth more vegetables are available in both spring and summer than in winter. During spring and summer, most individual items are in fairly plentiful supply. However, during summer asparagus, broccoli, turnips and rutabagas, and a number of leafy greens are in relatively light supply.

Almost a fourth of the annual volume of fresh vegetables is available in the fall months, and a majority of items are usually in plentiful supply. But by late fall cooler weather results in curtailed supplies of snap beans, sweet corn, green onions, cucumbers, green peppers, and tomatoes.

There is, of course, a terrific seasonal variation in market supplies of melons. More than four-fifths of the annual volume of watermelons, and about two-thirds of the cantaloups are available in June, July and August. Most of the remaining watermelons move to market in May, and most of the remaining cantaloups in September and October.

There appears to be relatively little seasonal variation in the quantity of potatoes moving into consumption channels. The heavier unloads in the April-June period is probably caused by heavy movement of seed potatoes for planting the late summer and fall crops. In contrast to the fairly even flow of potatoes, there is a marked seasonal variation in sweetpotato marketings. About 40 percent of this crop is marketed during the fall season, and only 15 to 20 percent during the spring. Heavy fall marketings are explained partly by the fact that the crop is rather perishable and therefore difficult to store. Growers in many producing areas have little or no satisfactory permanent storage facilities, so they are obliged to market the crop at harvest or soon thereafter. Another factor is the demand for sweetpotatoes, which is at the annual peak during the holiday season--Thanksgiving through New Year's Day.

Table 4.--Vegetables and Potatoes: Percentage of unloads by seasons,  
20 U. S. cities, December 1952-November 1957 average <sup>1/</sup>

Commodity	December- February	March- May	June- August	September- November	12 month average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Carlots
Asparagus	1	81	18	2/	3,325
Beans, all	14	22	36	28	13,113
Beets	14	23	36	27	1,964
Broccoli	33	30	11	26	3,189
Brussels sprouts	42	4	2	52	719
Cabbage	24	29	24	23	27,475
Carrots	25	27	24	24	18,794
Cauliflower	26	19	16	39	11,349
Celery	26	28	23	23	32,057
Corn	4	22	52	22	16,983
Cucumbers	13	25	40	22	12,403
Escarole and endive	25	24	24	27	3,871
Lettuce and romaine	22	25	29	24	64,439
Onions, dry	22	27	26	25	28,304
Onions, green	18	31	30	21	4,050
Peas	17	34	34	15	1,780
Peppers	19	22	31	28	10,288
Spinach	27	32	19	22	4,797
Other cooking greens	30	32	17	21	7,836
Squash	18	22	24	36	6,392
Tomatoes	18	23	34	25	45,135
Turnips and rutabagas	33	22	12	33	4,152
Other vegetables	28	32	19	21	27,017
Total vegetables excluding melons	21	27	28	24	349,432
Cantaloups and misc. melons	1	9	67	23	29,220
Watermelons	2/	11	84	5	31,055
Total melons	2/	10	76	14	60,275
Total vegetables and melons	18	24	35	23	409,707
Potatoes	22	27	27	24	135,546
Sweetpotatoes	30	21	10	39	12,224
Grand total	20	25	32	23	557,477

<sup>1/</sup> Markets include: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas and Ft. Worth, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City (Mo.), Los Angeles, Minneapolis and St. Paul, New Orleans, New York, Oakland and San Francisco, Portland (Oregon), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Washington, D. C.

<sup>2/</sup> Less than 0.5 percent.

Computed from annual summaries of Unloads of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, AMS, USDA. Includes rail, boat, and truck unloads.



Table 5.--Vegetables and Potatoes: Percentage of unloads by seasons,  
20 U.S. cities, 1953-57 average 1/

Commodity	January- March	April- June	July- September	October- December	Annual average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Carlots
Asparagus	13	86	1	2/	3,325
Beans, all	15	29	33	23	13,120
Beets	14	30	33	23	1,956
Broccoli	33	24	11	32	3,165
Brussels sprouts	25	1	13	61	722
Cabbage	26	28	23	23	27,484
Carrots	26	27	22	25	18,746
Cauliflower	25	17	21	37	11,293
Celery	26	27	21	26	32,071
Corn	6	33	51	10	17,070
Cucumbers	13	35	33	19	12,379
Escarole and endive	25	23	25	27	3,861
Lettuce and romaine	22	28	27	23	64,317
Onions, dry	23	28	25	24	28,305
Onions, green	23	30	28	19	4,057
Peas	19	41	26	14	1,787
Peppers	19	25	31	25	10,310
Spinach	29	31	16	24	4,778
Other cooking greens	34	26	17	23	7,806
Squash	18	23	26	33	6,398
Tomatoes	18	28	32	22	45,153
Turnips and rutabagas	32	17	15	36	4,138
Other vegetables	30	28	18	24	27,061
Total vegetables excluding melons	22	28	26	24	349,302
Cantaloups and misc. melons	2	28	63	7	29,222
Watermelons	2/	40	59	1	31,054
Total melons	1	34	61	4	60,276
Total vegetables and melons	19	29	31	21	409,578
Potatoes	24	28	25	23	135,731
Sweetpotatoes	26	15	18	41	12,288
Grand total	20	29	29	22	557,597

1/ Markets include: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas and Ft. Worth, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City (Mo.), Los Angeles, Minneapolis and St. Paul, New Orleans, New York, Oakland and San Francisco, Portland (Oregon), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Washington, D. C.

2/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Computed from annual summaries of Unloads of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, AMS, USDA. Includes rail, boat, and truck unloads.

Table 6-- Vegetables and Potatoes: Percentage of unloads by months, 20 U.S. Cities, 1953-57 average 1/

Commodity	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual average
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Carlots
Asparagus	2/	1	12	38	31	17	1	2/	2/	2/	2/	---	3,325
Beans, all	4	4	6	7	9	13	12	11	10	10	8	6	13,120
Beets	4	4	6	7	10	13	13	11	10	10	7	5	1,956
Broccoli	12	10	12	10	8	5	3	3	5	11	10	11	3,165
Brussels sprouts	13	9	3	1	2/	--	2/	2	11	18	23	20	722
Cabbage	9	8	9	10	10	8	8	8	7	8	7	8	27,484
Carrots	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	7	7	9	8	8	18,746
Cauliflower	10	7	8	6	5	6	4	7	11	16	13	9	11,293
Celery	9	8	9	9	9	9	8	7	7	7	9	9	32,071
Corn	1	2	3	7	12	14	18	20	13	5	3	2	17,070
Cucumbers	4	4	5	9	11	15	14	11	8	7	7	5	12,379
Escarole and endive	9	8	9	8	7	8	8	8	9	10	8	8	3,861
Lettuce and romaine	7	7	8	8	9	10	10	9	8	8	8	8	64,317
Onions, dry	8	7	8	9	9	9	9	8	8	9	8	7	28,305
Onions, green	6	7	10	10	10	10	11	9	8	7	6	6	4,057
Peas	6	7	6	13	15	13	11	9	6	5	5	5	1,787
Peppers	6	6	7	7	9	9	11	10	10	10	8	7	10,310
Spinach	9	9	11	11	10	9	6	4	6	9	8	8	4,778
Other cooking greens	11	11	13	11	8	6	5	5	6	7	8	9	7,806
Squash	6	6	6	7	9	8	8	8	9	16	10	7	6,398
Tomatoes	6	5	6	7	10	12	12	11	9	9	7	6	45,153
Turnips and rutabagas	12	11	10	7	5	4	3	4	8	12	13	11	4,138
Other vegetables	10	9	11	11	10	8	6	6	6	7	7	9	27,061
Total vegetables excl. melons	7	7	8	9	10	10	9	9	8	8	8	7	349,302
Cantaloups and misc. melons	2/	2/	1	2	6	20	25	23	16	6	1	2/	29,222
Watermelons	2/	2/	2/	1	9	30	35	20	5	2/	2/	2/	31,054
Total melons	2/	2/	1	2	7	25	30	21	10	3	1	2/	60,276
Total vegetables and melons	6	6	7	8	9	12	12	11	8	8	7	6	409,578
Potatoes	8	7	9	9	9	10	9	8	8	8	8	7	135,731
Sweetpotatoes	9	8	9	8	5	2	2	6	10	12	16	13	12,203
Grand total	7	6	7	8	9	12	11	10	8	8	7	7	557,597

1/ Markets include: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas and Ft. Worth, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City (Mo.), Los Angeles, Minneapolis and St. Paul, New Orleans, New York, Oakland and San Francisco, Portland (Oregon), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Washington, D. C.

2/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Computed from annual summaries of Unloads of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, AMS, USDA.

Includes rail, boat and truck unloads.

(Expressed in carlot equivalents)

1/ Except watermelons.

Truck unloads are not 100 percent complete but represent highest percentage obtainable under local conditions in markets covered.

Market News: Weekly reports, USDA, AMS.



Table 8.- Vegetables, fresh: Representative prices (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1 when available), indicated periods, 1958 and 1959

Market and commodity	State of origin	Unit	Tuesday nearest mid-month					
			1958		1959			
			Mar. 18:	Apr. 15:	Jan. 13:	Feb. 17:	Mar. 17:	Apr. 14:
			<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>
<b>New York:</b>								
Beans, snap, green, Valentine	Florida	Bu. bskt.	---	4.00	6.50	5.50	4.00	6.25
Beets, bunched	Texas	42's	4.50	3.38	4.75	4.00	4.00	3.40
Broccoli, bunched	California	14's, small crt.	4.12	3.30	3.68	3.50	2.75	2.75
Cabbage:								
Domestic,								
Round type	Florida	1-3/4 bu. crt.	2.45	3.35	3.50	2.50	2.50	2.50
Carrots:								
Bunched	California	4 doz. pony crt.	3.75	3.87	4.25	4.50	4.12	3.80
Topped, washed	California	48-1 lb. film bag:						
		crt.	4.25	4.31	5.92	4.67	4.12	4.25
Topped, washed	Texas	48-1 lb. film bag:						
		crt.	3.50	3.20	---	4.00	3.50	4.00
Cauliflower	California	WGA crt. 18's	6.38	5.00	5.50	5.25	5.00	4.25
Celery:								
Pascal	Florida	16-in. crt.	4.00	6.12	2.92	3.00	2.10	2.25
Pascal	California	16-in. crt.	6.45	8.35	5.30	4.25	3.75	4.50
Escarole	Florida	1-1/9 bu. crt.	3.40	1.88	1.52	2.10	1.62	2.00
Lettuce, Big Boston	Florida	2-doz. crt.	4.00	2.50	3.00	3.00	---	---
Onions:								
Yellow, medium	New York	50-lb. sack	3.16	3.88	---	2.85	4.50	6.75
Yellow, medium large	Idaho	50-lb. sack	4.15	---	4.25	3.80	5.00	---
Peppers, green	Florida	Bu. bskt.	8.00	10.00	4.40	5.00	8.50	4.50
Spinach, Savoy	Texas	Bu. bskt.	2.00	2.25	2.15	2.20	1.90	2.00
<b>Chicago:</b>								
Beets, bunched	Texas	42's	3.25	3.25	4.35	4.00	3.35	3.25
Broccoli	California	14's, small crt.	3.25	3.00	3.15	3.15	2.85	2.50
Cabbage:								
Domestic,								
Round type	Texas	1-3/4 bu. crt.	2.75	3.00	2.85	2.15	2.35	2.50
Carrots:								
Topped, washed	California	48-1 lb. film bag:	4.00	---	5.65	3.75	4.15	4.25
Topped, washed	Texas	48-1 lb. mesh and:	3.00	2.50	---	3.00	3.25	3.40
Celery:		paper crt.						
Pascal	Florida	16-in. crt.	4.65	6.25	3.00	2.75	2.35	2.65
Pascal	California	16-in. crt.	5.50	7.50	4.75	3.50	3.25	3.75
Lettuce, Iceberg, dry pack	California	2 doz. head crtn.	4.75	---	2.85	3.75	2.85	1.85
Onions:								
Sweet Spanish	Idaho	50-lb. sack	4.50	4.85	3.90	3.50	4.75	---
Yellow, medium	Midwestern	50-lb. sack	3.00	---	3.00	2.75	4.35	5.50
Peppers, green	Florida	Bu. bskt.	10.00	15.25	4.50	8.00	7.00	5.75
Spinach, flat type	Texas	Bu. bskt.	1.85	---	3.00	2.00	2.25	1.85

Weekly summary of terminal market prices, USDA, AMS, Market News Reports.

Table 9.--Vegetables, fresh: Average price per hundredweight received by farmers, United States, indicated periods, 1958 and 1959

Commodity	1958		1959		
	Feb. 15	Mar. 15	Jan. 15	Feb. 15	Mar. 15
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Beans, snap	24.00	24.00	13.50	13.30	9.90
Broccoli	8.50	9.30	9.90	9.70	8.40
Cabbage	4.30	2.40	2.55	1.85	1.55
Carrots	3.20	2.70	3.40	2.10	2.25
Cauliflower	3.85	4.30	3.85	3.75	3.35
Celery	5.00	3.95	3.10	2.55	2.40
Corn, sweet	8.00	6.20	6.10	6.50	7.40
Cucumbers	---	---	13.90	13.50	18.80
Lettuce	2.85	7.30	3.35	5.40	3.80
Onions	2.50	5.10	4.45	4.10	8.10
Peppers, green	44.00	35.00	10.70	16.00	21.60
Spinach	9.20	6.60	9.20	7.20	7.00
Tomatoes	12.70	16.30	12.50	10.10	11.30

Agricultural Prices, USDA, AMS, issued monthly.

Table .--Vegetables for commercial processing: Prospective plantings, average 1948-57, annual 1958 and 1959

Crop	Planted acreage			1959 as a percentage of-	
	Average : 1948-57	1958	Intended : 1959	Average : 1948-57	1958
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Percent	Percent
Asparagus	95,200	107,230	---	---	---
Beans, green lima	106,600	88,850	90,050	84	101
Beans, snap	138,100	158,600	166,700	121	105
Beets for canning	18,800	16,460	14,830	79	90
Cabbage for kraut					
Contract	9,300	7,950	7,600	82	96
Open market	7,200	4,490	---	---	---
Total for cabbage	---	12,440	---	---	---
Corn, sweet	468,600	401,740	450,950	96	112
Cucumbers for pickles	142,400	125,990	113,350	80	90
Peas, green	455,900	395,850	360,880	79	91
Spinach: 1/					
Winter and early spring	8,770	8,700	10,100	115	116
Late spring and fall	30,670	29,100	--	---	---
Total for spinach	---	37,800	---	---	---
Tomatoes	347,500	360,500	308,800	89	86
Total, 10 crops	1,828,300	1,705,460	---	---	---

1/ 1949-57 average.

Vegetables-Processing, USDA, AMS, issued monthly.

Table 11.--Vegetables, frozen: Cold-storage holdings, March 31, 1959, with comparisons

Commodity	March average 1954-58	1958 March 31	1959		
			January 31	February 28	March 31 <sup>1/</sup>
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Asparagus	10,495	14,295	15,243	12,900	10,723
Beans, lima	71,624	76,051	93,557	81,387	72,698
Beans, snap	46,333	45,286	81,361	69,641	57,153
Broccoli	40,650	38,694	44,816	42,551	46,498
Brussels sprouts	20,993	19,793	25,040	21,034	18,838
Carrots	N.A.	N.A.	24,672	23,408	23,321
Cauliflower	18,293	16,410	20,100	16,170	16,370
Corn, sweet	53,075	55,934	71,144	60,003	49,449
Peas and carrots	N.A.	12,114	16,185	15,428	13,844
Peas, green	99,906	149,321	161,417	137,094	115,088
Potatoes, french fries	N.A.	69,061	79,348	90,790	98,226
Spinach	27,171	24,371	24,758	19,504	26,382
Mixed vegetables	N.A.	23,090	24,519	23,444	21,654
Other vegetables	152,895	77,148	79,088	73,767	69,824
Total	541,435	621,568	761,248	687,121	640,068

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary.

N.A. Not available.

Cold Storage Report, USDA, AMS, issued monthly.

Table 12.--Potatoes: Prospective plantings for 1959 season, with comparisons

Seasonal group	Acreage planted 1949-57 average	Yield per planted acre 1954-58 average	Acreage planted		
			1958	Indicated 1959	1959 as percentage of 1958
	1,000 acres	Cwt.	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Winter <sup>1/</sup> <sup>2/</sup>	26.7	155.4	38.5	26.8	69.6
Early spring <sup>2/</sup>	25.1	147.6	32.7	25.8	78.9
Late spring <sup>3/</sup>	196.8	150.6	183.0	156.1	85.3
Early summer <sup>4/</sup>	121.0	92.7	108.3	96.4	89.0
Late summer and fall <sup>5/</sup>	1,137.8	175.5	1,135.6	1,087.2	95.7
Total, all seasons	1,507.4	165.2	1,498.1	1,392.3	92.9

<sup>1/</sup> Includes acreage planted in preceding fall.<sup>2/</sup> Acreage planted.<sup>3/</sup> Intended acreage for 1959 as of January 1.<sup>4/</sup> Intended acreage for 1959 as of February 1.<sup>5/</sup> Intended acreage for 1959 as of March 1.

Crop Production, USDA, AMS, issued monthly.



Table 13.--Canned vegetables: Commercial packs 1957 and 1958 and canners' and wholesale distributors' stocks 1958 and 1959, by commodities, United States

Commodity	Pack		Stocks					
	1957	1958	Canner 1/		Wholesale distributors 1/			
			Date	1958	1959	Date	1958	1959
	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000
	cases	cases		cases	cases		cases	cases
	24/2's	24/2's		24/2's	24/2's		24/2's	24/2's
Major commodities								
Beans, snap	26,174	26,432	Mar. 1	11,304	11,847	Jan. 1	2,459	2,596
Corn, sweet	31,533	27,075	Mar. 1	16,694	11,952	Jan. 1	3,230	3,332
Peas, green	33,857	29,549	Mar. 1	14,228	15,919	Jan. 1	3,287	2,911
Tomatoes	21,686	30,465	Jan. 1	11,964	16,942	Jan. 1	3,063	3,308
Tomato juice 2/	32,590	37,467	Jan. 1	25,593	29,417	Jan. 1	2,717	2,452
Total	145,840	150,988		79,783	86,077		14,756	14,599
Minor commodities								
Asparagus	5,887	6,183	Mar. 1	1,445	1,329	Jan. 1	592	544
Beans, lima	2,518	2,464	Feb. 1	1,881	1,508	Jan. 1	495	473
Beets	8,335	8,030	Mar. 1	5,248	4,929	Jan. 1	993	954
Blackeye peas	1,418	N.A.						
Carrots	2,517	3,186	Mar. 1	1,547	1,869	Jan. 1	421	434
Okra	560	852						
Pickles	3/25,146	3/24,262						
Pimientos	357	493						
Pumpkin and squash	3,327	3,535	Dec. 1	1,693	1,431	Jan. 1	552	550
Sauerkraut	3/9,202	3/11,119	Mar. 1	4/5,032	4/5,172	Jan. 1	720	712
Potatoes	3,243	N.A.						
Sweetpotatoes	5,345	N.A.						
Spinach	6,346	5,219	Mar. 1	1,806	1,104	Jan. 1	573	573
Other greens	2,103	2,318						
Tomato products:								
Catsup and								
chili sauce	18,180	21,075	Jan. 1	15,239	16,884	Jan. 1	1,583	1,446
Paste	5/8,741	5/11,477	Jan. 1	6/5,250	6/6,185	Jan. 1	642	745
Pulp and puree	4,527	4,320	Jan. 1	6/2,504	6/2,625	Jan. 1	650	619
Sauce	7,969	12,158	Jan. 1	6/5,981	6/9,024	Jan. 1	748	625
Vegetables, mixed	3,454	3,463						
Total, comparable								
minor items	109,169	120,154		47,626	52,060		7,969	7,675
Grand total								
Comparable items	255,009	271,142		127,409	138,137		22,725	22,274

1/ Converted from actual cases to standard cases of 24 No. 2 cans by S&HR Branch of AMS.

2/ Includes combination vegetable juices containing at least 70 percent tomato juice.

3/ Crop for processing converted to a canned basis by applying an overall conversion factor (pickles 68 and sauerkraut 54 cases equivalent to 1 ton fresh).

4/ Reported in barrels; converted to 24/2's by using 14 cases to the barrel.

5/ Estimated, basis California pack.

6/ California only.

N. A. Not available.

Canners' stock and pack data from National Canners Association, unless otherwise noted. Wholesale distributors' stocks from United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.--Potatoes, winter and spring: Acreage, yield per acre, average 1949-57, 1958 and indicated 1959 1/

Seasonal group	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Average :	Indi- :	Average :	Indi- :	Average :	Indi- :	1949-57 :	1958 :	Indi- :
	1949-57 :	1958 :	cated :	1949-57 :	1958 :	cated :	1949-57 :	1958 :	cated :
	2/ :	1959 :	1959 :	2/ :	1959 :	1959 :	2/ :	1959 :	1959 :
	1,000 :	1,000 :	1,000 :	1,000 :	1,000 :	1,000 :	1,000 :	1,000 :	1,000 :
	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Winter	26.3	34.5	26.3	156.2	144.1	147.3	4,103	4,971	3,874
Early spring	24.8	31.2	25.8	134.8	150.7	141.2	3,355	4,703	3,643
Late spring	185.4	166.3	137.3	133.6	147.1	---	24,540	24,465	---

1/ This acreage and production is later included in reports of total potatoes. 2/ Simple averages of annual data for the season.

Table 15.--Sweetpotatoes: Plantings, average 1949-57, annual 1958 and indicated 1959

Area	Acreage			1959 as percentage of 1958	
	Average : 1949-57 :	1958 : :	Indicated : 1959 1/ :	1959 as percentage of 1958 : :	Percent
	<u>1,000 acres</u>	<u>1,000 acres</u>	<u>1,000 acres</u>		<u>Percent</u>
Central Atlantic 2/	38.1	39.9	42.3		106
Lower Atlantic 3/	104.9	57.6	56.4		98
South Central 4/	200.9	159.4	160.2		101
North Central 5/	3.7	3.3	3.3		100
California	11.7	12.0	13.0		6/110
United States	361.4	272.2	7/275.2		101.1

1/ Indications as of March 1, 1959. 2/ New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia. 3/ North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. 4/ Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. 5/ Missouri and Kansas. 6/ Does not equal calculated percentage due to rounding basic data to nearest 1,000 acres. 7/ Assuming 1954-58 average yield by States, production from this prospective acreage would amount to 16.4 million hundredweight in 1959, compared with 17.4 million hundredweight in 1958.

Crop Production, USDA, AMS, issued monthly.

Table 16.--Potatoes: Price f.o.b. shipping points and wholesale price per hundredweight at New York and Chicago, indicated periods 1958 and 1959

Item	Week ended						
	1958			1959			
	Feb. 22	Mar. 22	Apr. 19	Jan. 24	Feb. 21	Mar. 21	Apr. 18
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
F.o.b. shipping points:							
New stock							
Dade County, Fla.,							
U. S. No. 1, Size A,							
Round Red 1/ 2/	5.70	6.00	6.60	---	2.56	2.36	3.60
Old stock							
San Luis Valley, Colo.,							
Red McClure 1/ 3/ 5/	3.86	4.67	4.45	1.55	1.52	1.18	2.34
Idaho Falls, Idaho							
Russet Burbank 1/ 4/ 9/	3.10	4.56	---	2.21	2.10	1.90	---
Arrostook County, Me.,							
U. S. No. 1, Size A,							
Katahdin 2/ 6/	2.94	3.72	3.18	1.10	.98	1.12	1.26
Hartford-Rockville Area, Conn.,							
Katahdin 7/	3.19	4.14	3.68	1.43	1.18	1.38	1.38
Rochester, West and							
Central N. Y. Katahdin 2/ 5/ 8/	3.56	4.38	3.82	1.60	1.34	1.34	1.36
West Michigan, Mich.,							
Katahdin, 2/ 5/	3.74	4.54	---	1.62	1.52	1.46	---
	Tuesday nearest mid-month						
	1958			1959			
	Feb. 18	Mar. 18	Apr. 15	Jan. 13	Feb. 18	Mar. 17	Apr. 14
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Terminal Markets:							
New York:							
New stock							
Florida, Round Reds 2/	7.12	7.76	8.26	6.24	4.80	4.00	5.76
Old stock							
Long Island, Katahdin 2/ 9/	3.18	---	---	1.90	1.74	1.70	1.70
Maine, Katahdin 2/ 6/ 9/	3.96	4.90	4.62	2.24	2.06	2.14	2.16
Idaho, Russet Burbank 1/ 2/ 7/ 9/	5.12	6.98	6.64	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.60
Chicago:							
New stock							
Florida, Round Reds 1/ 2/ 9/	---	---	---	5.70	4.00	3.40	5.00
Old stock							
Idaho, Russet Burbank 1/ 9/	4.39	6.00	5.60	3.60	3.45	3.25	3.95

1/ Washed.

2/ 50 pound price doubled.

3/ 2 1/8 inch minimum.

4/ 20-30 percent, 10 ounce and larger.

5/ Delivery sales shipping point.

6/ 2 1/4-4 inch minimum.

7/ 2 inch minimum.

8/ Various varieties.

9/ U. S. No. 1 Size A.

F.o.b. prices are the simple averages of the mid-point of the range of daily prices and are compiled from Market News Reports of AMS. Market prices are submitted Tuesday of each week by Market News representatives.



Table 17.--Sweetpotatoes: F.o.b. prices at Southern Louisiana points and representative market prices (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1, when available), indicated periods 1958 and 1959

Location and variety	Unit	Week ended							
		1958				1959			
		Feb. 22	Mar. 22	Apr. 19	Jan. 24	Feb. 21	Mar. 21	Apr. 18	
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
F.o.b. shipping points									
S. W. Louisiana points									
Puerto Rican, U. S.	:50 pound:								
No. 1, cured	: crate	4.80	4.75	4.75	3.34	3.25	3.12	3.12	
		Tuesday nearest midmonth							
		1958				1959			
		Feb. 18	Mar. 18	Apr. 15	Jan. 13	Feb. 17	Mar. 17	Apr. 14	
Terminal markets									
New York									
New Jersey, orange	: Bushel								
Jersey type	: basket	4.25	4.75	4.70	3.25	3.13	3.13	3.05	
North Carolina,	: Bushel								
Puerto Rican	: basket	5.07	5.50	5.50	4.75	4.40	4.35	4.10	
Chicago									
Louisiana,	:50 pound:								
Puerto Rican, cured	: crate	5.50	5.50	5.50	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.65	

F.o.b. prices are simple averages of the mid-point of the range of daily prices. Market prices are for Tuesday of each week and are submitted by Market News representatives to the Fruits and Vegetables Section of AMS.

Table 18.--Average price per hundredweight received by farmers for potatoes, sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, and dry field peas, United States, indicated periods, 1958 and 1959

Commodity	1958			1959		
	Feb. 15	Mar. 15	Jan. 15	Feb. 15	Mar. 15	
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Field crops						
Potatoes 1/	2.23	3.23	1.21	1.10	1.04	
Sweetpotatoes	5.45	5.58	4.47	4.36	3.83	
Beans, dry, edible	7.63	7.69	6.73	6.87	6.81	
Peas, dry, field	2.87	2.88	5.97	6.22	6.22	

1/ Monthly average price.

Agricultural Prices, USDA, AMS, issued monthly.

Table 19.--Peas, dry field: Prospective plantings for 1959 season, with comparisons 1/

State	Acreage planted :1948-57 av.:	Yield per planted acre :1954-58 av.:	Acreage planted		
			1958	Indicated: 1959 2/	1959 as percentage of 1958
	1,000 acres	Pounds	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Minnesota	5	870	6	7	117
North Dakota	4	834	4	5	125
Idaho	97	1,200	79	120	152
Colorado	18	447	22	21	96
Washington	149	1,097	108	146	135
Oregon	12	1,100	7	10	143
California	8	1,226	1	2	200
Total United States	304	1,088	227	3/311	137.0

1/ In principal commercial producing States.

2/ Indication as of March 1, 1959.

3/ Assuming planted yield per acre, by States, equals the 1954-58 average, production from the prospective acreage would be 3.4 million 100-pound bags (cleaned basis), compared with 2.5 million bags produced in 1958.

Crop Production, USDA, AMS, issued monthly.

Table 20.--Beans, dry edible: Prospective plantings for 1959 season, with comparisons 1/

Group of States	Acreage planted :1948-57 av.:	Yield per planted acre :1954-58 av.:	Acreage planted		
			1958	Indicated: 1959 2/	1959 as percentage of 1958
	1,000 acres	Pounds	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Percent
Maine, New York, Michigan	624	865	671	672	100.1
Nebraska, Montana, Idaho,					
Wyoming, Washington	310	1,633	380	391	102.9
Colorado, New Mexico,					
Arizona, and Utah	351	695	295	312	105.8
California	316	1,375	298	281	94.3
Total United States	1,601	1,091	1,644	3/ 1,656	100.7

1/ Includes beans grown for seed.

2/ Indications as of March 1, 1959.

3/ Assuming 1954-58 average yields per planted acre, by States, production from this prospective acreage would amount to about 18.0 million 100-pound bags (cleaned basis), compared with 19.0 million bags produced in 1958.

Crop Production, USDA, AMS, issued monthly.

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